

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable claims. Claims 1-80 allegedly deemed non-allowable by the Examiner are hereby canceled without traverse. Applicants respectfully ask that claims 81-114 be sent to issue. Also, in view of the cancellation of claim 21, the drawing objection mentioned in Paragraph 1 of the Office action is now moot. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit early notification of allowability from the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions or believe a personal or telephonic interview may be in order, he is invited to contact the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH LLP

By: Mark R. Shanks
Mark R. Shanks
Reg. No. 33,781

Date: 10/5/04
1301 K Street
Suite 1100 East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005
202.414.9204
Fax 202.414.9299